

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the subject application. Claims 9-20 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-4, 7, and 8 are rejected. Claims 1-4, 7 and 8 have been cancelled. Claims 5 and 6 have been amended.

No new matter has been added.

Previous Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Applicant respectfully requests confirmation that the previous rejection (in the Office Action mailed 25 March 2003) under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph of claims 2, 3, and 5-8 has been withdrawn.

Previous Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Applicant respectfully requests confirmation that the previous rejection (in the Office Action mailed 25 March 2003) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) of claims 1-8 has been withdrawn.

The Amendments

Claims 5 and 6 have been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 1. Support can be found, for example, at page 3, line 16, page 8, lines 5-10, and originally filed claim 1.

Current Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-4 and 7-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,672,491.

The Examiner asserts that the rejection is maintained for reasons of record set forth in the Office Action mailed 25 March 2003.

Though Applicant does not necessarily agree with the Examiner's comments, in order to expedite prosecution, Applicant has cancelled claims 1-4, 7, and 8 without prejudice or disclaimer making the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) moot.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks and arguments, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. 300622005400.

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Respectfully submitted,

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